

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
@Memorial Library Community Room

APRIL 2, 2009
7:00p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by First Selectman Janet M. McCarty. Also present were Stephen A. Fontana, Second Selectman and Michael J. Freda, Third Selectman.

At this time, there were public comments relative to the agenda.

Veronica Kivela, 70 Drazen Drive, questioned the Fair Housing Policy. Ms. McCarty explained that we must be fair and unbiased in our housing policy, and acceptance of this policy by the Town is mandatory if we are to accept federal and state grants. The Town has signed off on this policy in past years and must do so this year since we have been awarded a grant to renovate the Senior Center.

Ann DeMatteo, New Haven Register, asked what personnel issues were being discussed in executive session. Ms. McCarty stated it involved heart and hypertension matters.

A motion was made by Mr. Fontana to approve the minutes of the Regular Selectmen's Meeting of March 5, 2009.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana made a motion to accept the resignation of Ronald D. Penton (U), 132 Pool Road, from the Inland Wetlands Commission. Ms. McCarty thanked Mr. Penton for his service, explaining that he had served on the commission for nine years but was now the president of the North Haven Trails Association and that required more time.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana made a motion to appoint Stephen F. Darley (D), 100 Fitch Street, to the Inland Wetlands Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Ronald D. Penton, term to expire 12-31-09. Ms. McCarty noted that Mr. Darley was currently an Alternate on the Inland Wetlands Commission. Since a position as an alternate now exists on the commission, Ms. McCarty asked that anyone interested in serving contact her office.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana made a motion to ratify the labor contract between the Town of North Haven and North Haven Professional Firefighters Association, Inc.

Mr. Freda asked about the term of the contract and whether it was settled in arbitration. Christopher Duby, Town Attorney, explained that it was a two year contract, and they were in arbitration but the contract was settled before an arbitration decision had to be made. Ms. McCarty thanked the firefighters for coming to this agreement.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

A motion was made by Mr. Fontana to approve the following resolution:

Fair Housing Policy

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town of North Haven hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase and obtain financing for adequate housing of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the First Selectman of the Town of North Haven or her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of North Haven

Mr. Freda asked if this resolution was the result of a complaint lodged against the town. Ms. McCarty explained that there was no complaint, that the Town is required to have a Fair Housing Policy to be granted federal and state funds, and to have a Fair Housing Official if any complaints are forthcoming.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved to approve the following property tax refunds:

Leslie A. Blackwell, 153 Worth Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518, in the amount of \$208.35, and in the amount of \$336.06, and in the amount of \$164.03, and in the amount of \$290.46

BMW Financial Services, 5515 Parkcenter Circle, Dublin, OH 43017, in the amount of \$324.16

Candid Communications of North Haven, 110 Washington Avenue 4th Floor, North Haven, Ct 06473, in the amount of \$269.67, and in the amount of \$712.16, and in the amount of \$981.49

Louis A. Carpenter, PO Box 185280, Hamden, CT 06518, in the amount of \$324.54, and in the amount of \$391.27, and in the amount of \$493.64, and in the amount of \$138.33

Louis A. Carpenter, 31 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$2.12, and in the amount of \$145.23, and in the amount of \$2.54, and in the amount of \$174.70, and in the amount of \$325.75, and in the amount of \$2.87

Directional Technologies, Inc., 26 Windsor Road East, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$198.11, and in the amount of \$8.23, and in the amount of \$24.68, and in the amount of \$133.48, and in the amount of \$249.10, and in the amount of \$31.76, and in the amount of \$167.75, and in the amount of \$219.86, and in the amount of \$271.20, and in the amount of \$421.10, and in the amount of \$520.33, and in the amount of \$255.14, and in the amount of \$347.61, and in the amount of \$194.87, and in the amount of \$36.16, and in the amount of \$289.30, and in the amount of \$417.30

Marcella A. Federico, 5 Ridgewood Court, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$296.10

Dawn & Roseann Flanagan, 856 Middletown Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$566.82

Ronald D. Garney Jr. & Erin K. Healy & Surv, 111 Warner Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$470.00, and in the amount of \$509.32

GMAC, PO Box 33115, Knoxville, TN 37930, in the amount of \$349.54, and in the amount of \$123.76, and in the amount of \$109.59, and in the amount of \$202.96, and in the amount of \$140.88, and in the amount of \$103.33, and in the amount of \$100.84, and in the amount of \$82.56, and in the amount of \$77.95

New Haven Body, 395 State Street, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$269.92, and in the amount of \$207.74, and in the amount of \$357.60

Mark M. Porto, 20 Ridgewood Court, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$5.41, and in the amount of \$476.58, and in the amount of \$580.60

Thomas R. or Elizabeth Rubenstein, 167 Southwind, Wallingford, CT 06492, in the amount of \$72.97

Kathleen A. Thibault, 15 Hemingway Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$45.83, and in the amount of \$44.74

Toyota Motor Credit Corp., Box 105386, Atlanta, GA 30348, in the amount of \$31.02

Melanie Vogt & Saleem Khan & Surv, 11 Alexander Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$70.74, and in the amount of \$76.58, and in the amount of \$86.40

VW Credit Leasing LTD, 1401 Franklin Blvd, Libertyville, IL 60048, in the amount of \$23.32

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Ms. McCarty announced that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 7:00p.m. in the Library Community Room. She reminded everyone to attend the Public Hearing on the Budget on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the North Haven High School auditorium.

Mr. Freda noted that the budget that was distributed for the Public Hearing did not include revenue figures. He expressed his concern that without revenue amounts, the public would not have a complete understanding of how the expenses would be met. Ms. McCarty explained that the revenue figures are very unpredictable this year because of the state of the economy and especially because of the uncertainty of the amount of state funding.

The Board entertained comments from the public.

Gary Amato, 27 Pool Road, asked Mr. Freda to address mistakes he makes in his column, "Freda's Focus," and not in a letter to the editor. Mr. Freda noted that often his next column is already written when the mistake is uncovered. He felt it was appropriate to address these issues in the letters to the editor section since people read the letters and columns in equal amounts. He explained that he has made mistakes in the past and has apologized.

Michael Mele, 109 Maple Avenue, noted that Mr. Freda's column is read more frequently since he is a Selectman and that letters have more restrictions. He stated that Mr. Freda's numbers regarding the percentage reduction in the grand list were not correct. Mr. Freda said he would look into the discrepancy.

Ann DeMatteo, New Haven Register, asked if the revenue figures will be available at the Public Hearing. Ms. McCarty explained that we can discuss anticipated revenue, but we never vote on revenue. The budget that is available now is a draft and the figures are fluid. After hearing comments at the Public Hearing, the Board of Finance may make adjustments and will discuss the mill rate at their meeting on April 15. Mr. Fontana noted that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to obtain feedback from the public on expenditures and what services the town should continue to provide. Ms. McCarty explained that the use of the fund balance will also be an important part of the discussion. Mr. Freda again stated that we cannot determine what we should spend if we do not know the amount of revenue. Ms. McCarty again explained that we do not have predictable numbers as we have had in past years. The revenue projections on the state and local level are changing from day to day.

Michael Mele, 109 Maple Avenue, questioned Mr. Freda's assessment of the Todd Drive project.

Michael Zuccarelli, 520 Middletown Avenue, asked if the job classification study had anything to do with the dismissal of Bob Burns. Ms. McCarty stated that it did not.

Antoinetta Carmody, 159 Upper State Street, asked how long the Public Works Director has been on the job and if she is getting a raise on July 1. Ms. McCarty stated that she, the Public Works Director and the Finance Director would not be taking a raise on July 1. When asked why the raises appeared in the budget, Ms. McCarty explained that the department heads' raises in the budget draft are reflected as a result of the classification and compensation study. She further stated that the Board of Finance approved the budget as presented unanimously.

Brian Cummings, 107 Clintonville Road, asked if the Public Works Director had been arrested, since two years ago, raises had been included in the budget for department heads who had been arrested.

Miriam Brody, 500 Elm Street, 15-4, was concerned about the amount of the raises that appeared for department heads. Ms. McCarty explained that the study recommended increases for all department heads and these amounts were included in the budget. Ms. McCarty noted that the budget document is on the Town Website and copies are available in the Town Clerk's Office.

Ann DeMatteo, New Haven Register, asked if other non-union department heads will be getting raises. Ms. McCarty stated that she is having discussions with all department heads and there will be more information in the coming weeks.

Ms. McCarty made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

The Board of Selectmen adjourned to executive session at 7:32 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen reconvened to announce who will attend the executive session. In addition to the Board of Selectmen, those attending were CIRMA representative, William O'Connell and Attorney Joseph Porto.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

The Board of Selectmen adjourned to executive session at 7:37 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen returned from executive session at 7:55 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. McCarty moved for adjournment at 7:55 p.m. Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes